



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Division of Environmental Health Services

BRUCE HABBITT, Governor

SUZANNE DANDLOY, M.D., M.P.H., Director

August 31, 1979

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The Honorable Herschel Andrews, President
Salt River, Pima, Maricopa Indian Community
Route 1, Box 216
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

Dear President Andrews:

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is deeply concerned with the proper disposal of solid and hazardous wastes throughout the State. The Department is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the disposal of these wastes does not present a hazard to the public health or cause pollution of the environment. As part of that responsibility, the Department is required by regulation to review and approve or disapprove plans for all proposed refuse disposal operations.

In this regard, we have recently become concerned about the Tri-City landfill, which is the principal refuse disposal site for three of our largest cities. On several occasions in recent years, parts of the site apparently have been washed out by flood waters, resulting in pollution of the Salt River. The site is located in a high water table area where there is a possibility of contamination of groundwater from infiltration and leachate generation. We have also received reports of open burning at the site.

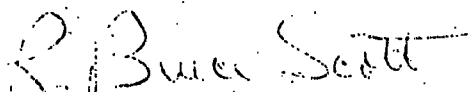
The above-described conditions constitute potential health and environmental threats to local residents, both on and off the reservation. We would like to work with you, and with the cities of Scottsdale, Tempe and Mesa, to resolve these problems. In order to do this, it is essential that our technical staff be given an opportunity to conduct on-site inspections at the Tri-City landfill, to take whatever measurements, photos and samples are necessary for an evaluation of the situation. Such inspections are also necessary for the informed exercise of our responsibility to approve or disapprove disposal methods.

We would like to arrange for a joint inspection of the site with tribal officials and representatives of the Indian Health Service. After completion of the inspection and analysis of the results, we can meet to evaluate the situation, along with representatives of the three cities.

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I would appreciate hearing from you in the near future regarding this matter. We would like to arrange for the joint inspection within the next two weeks. Please contact me at 255-1130 at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



R. BRUCE SCOTT, P.E.
Assistant Director

RBS:DSB:lfc

cc: Mr. Charles K. Luster, Mesa City Manager
Mr. Tim Bray, Acting Scottsdale City Manager
Mr. Kenneth A. McDonald, Tempe City Manager
Mr. Thomas T. Rehm, Indian Health Service
Dr. Suzanne Dandoy, Director
Mr. Ted Williams, Deputy Director
~~Mr.~~ David S. Baron, Assistant Attorney General